CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which I claim an exclusive property or privilege are defined as follows:

1. A system for controlling a performing arts show, comprising:

    (a) a means for playing lists of audio tracks and lighting sequences that are timed to said audio tracks,

    (b) a body containing a plurality of switches, and

    (c) a means for controlling lights in response to said lighting sequences,

whereby said switches control the starting and stopping of said lists of audio tracks and lighting sequences.

2. A system as described in claim 1, further including a means for displaying lyrics that are timed to said audio tracks.

3. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said switches also control the volume of said audio tracks' playback.

4. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said switches also control the selecting of the current item on said lists for playback.

5. A system as described in claim 1, further including a means to mix live audio with said audio tracks.

6. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said means for controlling lights uses the DMX512 protocol as described by the United States Institute of Theatre Technology.

7. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said means for controlling lights uses MIDI signals.

8. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said switches are foot operated.

9. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said means for playing lists of audio tracks and lighting sequences is a microprocessor that is integral to said body containing a plurality of switches.

10. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said body containing a plurality of switches is connected via a wireless connection to said means for playing lists of audio tracks and lighting sequences.

11. A system as described in claim 1 wherein said lighting sequences contain sound-activated events.

12. A system as described in claim 11 wherein said means for playing lists of audio tracks and lighting sequences also analyzes said audio tracks to trigger said sound-activated events.

13. A system as described in claim 11, further including a microphone, whereby said sound-activated events are triggered by output from said microphone.

14. A system as described in claim 1, further including a method for generating and a means for displaying computer graphics in synchronization with said audio tracks.

15. A system as described in claim 14 wherein said display means is a projector.

16. A system as described in claim 14 wherein said computer graphics generation method is based upon a prescribed algorithm that is a function of the audio signal from said audio tracks.

17. A system for controlling a performing arts show, comprising:

(a) a means to play lists of audio tracks, and

(b) a body containing a plurality of foot operated switches,

whereby said foot operated switches control the starting, stopping, and the selection of said audio tracks.

18. A system as described in claim 17, further including a method of displaying lyrics in

synchronization with said audio tracks.

19. A system as described in claim 17 wherein said means to play lists of audio tracks is a microprocessor that is integral to said body containing a plurality of foot operated switches.

20. A system as described in claim 17 wherein said body containing a plurality of foot operated switches is connected via a wireless connection to said means to play lists of audio tracks.

21. A method for controlling a performing arts show comprising:

(a) providing a means for playing lists of audio tracks and lighting sequences that are timed to said audio tracks,

(b) providing a body containing a plurality of switches, and

(c) providing a means for controlling lights in response to said lighting sequences,

whereby said switches control the starting and stopping of said lists of audio and lighting sequences.

22. A method for controlling a performing arts show comprising:

(a) providing a means to play lists of audio tracks, and

(b) providing a body containing a plurality of foot operated switches,

whereby said switches control the starting, stopping, and selection of said audio tracks.